Dear Pearl, 10/18/72

Coincidence your letter of the 11th coming today. Yesterday afternoon I was mowing a piece of hillside I'm liberating from the honeysuckle, long-growing roses and small trees and bushes, with a lawn-mower yet, and wishing I had a machete with me to chop at what I couldn't cut with the mower. Then this morning I heard the first support for the Striso fiction on Cuba, China and narcotics. It was restricted to China and came from a Marine Corps general, Walt, who was defending everyone else. So there is agreement with Striso from the extreme right. It also included an editor early this morning, on TV. His name is M. Stanton Evans.

These are not the ways I prefer to think about you! In such company!

Forget about the machete. I didn t realize there was a duty on such things. I'll now have to dope out how to make myself a scabbard. Can be done.

I can t always help, but please try to think of the ways in which I might and include what would be needed. Example: two references to an unnamed L.A. lawyer. There is a reporter there from whom I might easily get a dependable rundown.

The lawyer should have advised you of the sequence of events. January is not far away. Advance copies will be out before then. If you can t think of anyother way of getting one, you should have a press friend there who could write for a review copy based on the Playboy piece. They are generally available three months prepub, in this case proofs at least four months ago. If they are really striving for a movie, they'll plaster the review copies.

My own view is that regardless of what the sequence is, the duty of a writer is to write. So, write. Don't ignore the possibility that their book excites interest but isn't the best movie approach. I think I've suggested the most viable in that medium. This does not preclude anything else or interfere with any timing the lawyer may prefer.

If Furst is a picture agent, the more he sees the more he is able to get interested, and the more interested he becomes, the better the possibilities of his doing something. What I saw in the draft of the digest piece is not the best foot to put forward.

I think you are wrong to try to seel an article before you havethe book. It is always better to have the article plug the book and, in fact, come from it.

No conflict between a book and suing for theft, as I see it. The more hurt done your book, the more damage attributable to the theft of part, no? So, WRITE.

Striso: I don t believe you that I'm wrong. I don t care how straight you think he is. He can be st aight and nuts, for one illustration. But his feeding you bum steers and bad influences is not something I'll ignore or attribute to his being so "straight". He serves purposes and interests other than yours and he either lies to you or is intelligence. He is feeding you a reactionay political line that can't have avlidity and telling you of himself what can t be true. And I have enough awareness of his past with me and others on the JFK thing.

Drugs: Can't evaluate Joel's brother as a source but Turner? You gotta be kidding to believe anything he says NOW because he says it. But if you want some example, be my guest! He isn't even a good crook. He was one of the worse influences on Garrison, who could do badly enough without any. I'm going to drop the drug stuff. Make your own mistakes, but I had to see you making those of others and your work and integrity suffering for it.

Striso's letters: check on copies. His reasons? Without knowing more I can only guess. That this is rubbish he is giving you is no guess. I don't think anything else is essential. But with more knowledge, perhaps a reasonably certain analysis can be made. That is the not the immediately-important thing. X-laxing all that crap from your work and mind is. Don't let his intrusion louse up a good thing. Besides, you don t know how intelligence operates, whether directly or indirectly, and they alone often know their purposes. Who can figure the sick? So, I say the first thing is what he has told you, and that is all bad and destructive of the work. Politics is another possible explanation. Vengeance. Self-importance. Many. You can get lost in them, but not once you recognize that he had lied and distorted and misrepresented. You ask me to define him. Excuse a simplified one: wrong. If you need more, ask. I think that is enough. The other areas are conjectural and why if there is no need to know more than that he is wrong worry about more?

"Do you know Garrison saw his ms and said most of it seemed to check out?"

PEARL! I take it you mean he told you this. No, I didn t know, and if I believed it, it would convince me even more. Garrison is ratid and has no idea of what is fact, what false, what the creation of his mind, manufactured from nothing more than desire. I know

fairly well, know his mind and its workings, who he like and dislikes and why, what he thinks as of the time I know about it(it can be entirely different the next time), and know that he said he had doubts about Striso in 12/68, because he so told me. That doesn't mean before or after that date, and all it means is what he said. This need not be what he thinks he thought then or did at any other time. But with his record, you consider this has meaning, something on which you can depend? The fact is, I didn't even know that Striso has a ms. but if he does, then there is another potential motive.

I doubt he is the only way of finding Teresa. But if he is, ask him. You can find her through the city directory and the post office. Stay away from Jerry and tell him nothing now, but he could do this for you if school isn't snowing him under. Unless she has left New York. Try writing her at her last address.

Watergate: You told me long ago that the Embassy had been told to pretend there is no such thing. Normal. But I think I asked you about any investigation. When you see the oldlawyer again, ask him about Ogarrio Sr's connections of the 503, which is when Hunt was in Mexico City with a State Department cover but working for CIA. Hunt speaks Spanish and has som many aliases I'd not be able to recall all those of which I know.

Age: it is relative. Compared to what? Now I felt only"yesterday", when I could outwear any college boy you know. I put in 19-20 hours yesterday and I feel it. Two years ago I didn't really feel 20. I'vebeen trying to get at least six hours sleep. We have many problems, and I suppose they are largely responsible. So is physical abuse for too many years. So is the fact that I am 60 and get too little exercise. I'vegot what I hope is not a male chauvinist pig attitude that the male body requires a certain amount of physical exertion. I'll not get any this afternoon because Lil has a sick headache, is a bit unsteady on her feet, and I won't leave her alone in the house while I'm chopping or mowing or whatever I'd be doing. I guess that part of it alsois how much I want to do and how many things prevent it. And how much I do because I have to, not because I want to any longer. Like work on the Ray case. The challenge is gone and I'm dealing with nuts. There is too much to do to have to prevent all the foolishness nuts try. There is only one more certain way of making enemies being right.

Three years ago I didn t feel old. Now I do. I don't believe it is all physical weariness. So, I'm trying to tackle each thing I have a chance to bring to an end to work my way out of the many problems requiring attention. I am aware of your problem in getting down to writing. I have it now. And I long so...

Put the powder puff away and put the nose to the grindstone.

I'm not trying to pry, but I have met many people in and around publishing, some in the law and movies, so when you mention any, unless you don't want to, give me names and if I know anything, I'll give you what I know.

Best regards,